

# ITEMS

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## THE SOCIAL SCIENCES IN SOUTH AMERICA

*by Ralph L. Beals\**

THE social sciences in Latin America are passing through a critical phase. Not only is the very existence of social science in doubt in some countries but its future character is uncertain. South American social science, until recently, was almost wholly in the nineteenth century European tradition. This is still true of some countries and for certain disciplines. The areas known as the social sciences in the United States were not regarded as science but rather as a division of the humanities and of philosophy. Even where the view that the social activities of man may be subjected to scientific study has gained some ground, the social sciences are still very much, as one Brazilian scholar put it, in the public domain. The need for technical training and understanding of research methods generally is little recognized, and almost any educated man with a bent for philosophical or theoretical thinking regards himself as competent in the social sciences. Moreover, the practical usefulness of results of social science research is rarely known and there is small incentive for individuals to secure the proper technical training. The scientific approach in any field is of relatively recent development in South America and in many

countries still enjoys rather low esteem. In Brazil, for example, except for a little physics and chemistry for engineering and medical students, no natural or social science was taught until 1932.

While the modern scientific approach is recent and underdeveloped, the old humanistic approach is in a state of decline, as far as numbers of recruits are concerned. Many of the older humanistic scholars were men of wealthy background, who followed their studies as avocations. In recent years some of these men have died; others are of considerable age, while few younger men appear as replacements. In part this is related to the increasing industrialization of Latin America and the decline of large fortunes based upon landholding. Young men, who a generation ago might have become gentlemen scholars, today are entering trade and industry. This is particularly evident in history in which few young men are appearing to carry on the once fairly advanced traditions.

The rather weak development of social science research in South America is not only a function of the scarcity of opportunities for the research worker, but of the lack of training facilities to prepare men for research. Although social science subjects have made their way into the curricula at most universities, in many cases they are still taught in the earlier European tradition and have little relation to research or scientific approaches.

\* This article is a summary of a long manuscript in preparation for the Social Science Research Council. The data were gathered in the course of five months' travel in South America, which was made possible by a travel grant under the Council's area research training program, and the appraisal is based on opinions expressed by Latin American social scientists who themselves are greatly concerned about the status of their fields.

Generalizations regarding an area as large as South America are extremely hazardous. Not only are there marked differences from one country to another, but the developments of the different disciplines in social science fluctuate from each country to the next. The generalizations in this paper should be viewed, therefore, as over-all impressions of thoughtful and interested scholars and not as definitive statements.

### UNIVERSITY FACILITIES FOR TRAINING

With few exceptions the universities of South America originated as amalgamations of long-established independent professional schools such as law, engineering,

and medicine. In the newer social science curricula the professional viewpoint persists. Specialization begins in the first year and there is little broad interdisciplinary training. On the other hand, the approach is often traditional, abstract, and highly theoretical. Teaching of research methods is almost unknown and even where a thesis is required for a doctorate, usually granted after the fifth year, there is rarely any original research involved as this is customarily understood in the United States.

In part these conditions are a function of the character of the faculty. There are few full-time faculty members and even fewer who are either trained in or who practice research. Moreover, curricula are often established by law, and change or experimentation is difficult. In the better universities these defects are well recognized and serious efforts are being made to overcome the economic and legal obstacles to modernizing faculties and curricula. In some countries research institute staffs are being utilized in the corresponding departments. Nevertheless there is only limited recognition of the necessity of having active research men on faculties if research training is to be given.

Perhaps the outstanding exception to this situation is in São Paulo, Brazil. The university as a whole is very progressive and has a number of full-time men on the staff. Some funds are granted for research. The most important group associated with the university is the *Escola Livre de Sociologia e Política*. Organized as a research institute but with the power of giving training and conferring degrees, the school has been able to adopt a much more flexible curriculum and research is a basic part of training. Virtually all members of the faculty are trained in and actively engaged in research and initially the entire faculty was drawn from abroad. Most of the activity so far has been in sociology and anthropology, but a beginning is being made in economics and political science. The *Escola Livre* is having a profound influence over a considerable part of South America. In many cases attempts are being made to emulate the São Paulo pattern, but unfortunately the fundamental place of research and of a staff with training for research has not been recognized.

Noticeable but uneven advance has been made in social science training in the University of Brazil at Rio de Janeiro, despite entrenched traditionalism in some schools. Many young men with foreign training have not yet risen to posts of importance in the university. Considerable use is made of the research institute, however, to create full-time teaching and research positions.

At the University of Chile in Santiago, also, some emphasis is laid on research as part of training. Particularly in economics and sociology, or what perhaps more prop-

erly should be called social economics, students are required to participate in a research seminar and to publish a thesis based upon original research, which generally includes research in the field and the collection of original data. Unfortunately, almost never does a student carry on any research after graduation.

Some development of the research institute or the research seminar in connection with student training is found in a number of other countries. Research-oriented training programs in various fields and of varying quality are found in Peru, Colombia, and Uruguay. Use of the research seminar and the research institute in training was well developed in Argentina, but the wholesale dismissal of university staff members some years ago disrupted programs badly. In some fields improvement may occur, for example, in economics. On the other hand, the orientations of programs in sociology are retrogressive.

In summary, then, the student in Latin America may obtain a fair background preparation in social sciences in many places, but only rarely has opportunity for research training. The typical research man in Latin America is self-trained or trained abroad. Sometimes research is part of his professional work, but typically he conducts research as a side line to some other occupation. Technical training in the social sciences receives little social or economic recognition. Except in a few large centers, the research man is isolated, there are few or no journals, and no national societies which hold meetings. Generally, his library facilities are limited and he has little contact with developments in other countries. He maintains his morale with difficulty.

## NATIONAL COMPARISONS

The picture of research activities varies greatly from country to country and from discipline to discipline. In some fields such as economics, there apparently is considerable activity in government bureaus, mainly in the collection of data, but this field of activity was not investigated in detail. Because of the wide variation it seems desirable to comment briefly on each country visited in the order of contact, confining myself to the outstanding research institutions and agencies.

In Panama only the national library and the national museum support limited research activities. Other research is individual.

In Venezuela there is support for work in archaeology, ethnology, and folklore through the National Museum of Natural Science, which also provides a center for individual activities.

Although numerous individuals have been writing history in Venezuela, there are few younger replacements.

Interest is confined to the figures of the liberation movement. In the other social sciences there is considerable writing, but it is politically tinged, the practitioners are entirely self-trained, and there is little objective research.

Brazil is perhaps the most promising country with respect to social science research at the present time, and there is a great deal of activity. In the past there was a strong tradition of writing and research in a nineteenth century vein, and throughout the country one encounters many amateurs, mainly self-trained, who are collecting respectable data. In many provincial towns and cities there are movements which in the future may produce expanded research programs. As these cannot be considered in detail in a brief report, I shall refer only to Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo.

In Rio de Janeiro the faculty of philosophy is unusually research-minded, and is a center for some research activity. It is perhaps primarily of interest in connection with future possibilities, however. Several research institutes, varying in quality of personnel and activity, are attached to the faculty. A small but active group is carrying on research in psychology, mainly in educational and physiological fields, but early extension into social psychology is contemplated. There is also some work in sociology and economics and some of the best development of statistical technique is found here. Anthropology has been relatively active, although needing more funds, personnel, and a research institute. The *Sociedade Brasileira de Antropologia*, with university encouragement, has furnished a meeting place not only for anthropologists but for the social sciences in general and has had a stimulating effect. It is doing its best to give some training to missionaries, and a hopeful program of field data collection is under way.

Other centers of significance in anthropology are the *Museu Nacional* and the *Serviço de Proteção aos Índios*. The latter only recently has added research-trained staff members. Significant work in specialized fields of physical anthropology goes on in the *Instituto de Pesquisas Educacionais*. History is advancing in the nation-wide program of the *Serviço do Patrimônio Histórico*. Political science is not yet recognized as a subject, but there has been some research of modern character. The *Institute of Nutrition* includes considerable sociological data in its studies.

The *Getúlio Vargas Foundation*, with government and private support, has published research results in various fields but is devoting itself principally to staff investigations of basic problems in economics and social economics.

The best organized and most highly developed field in Brazil at present is geography. The *National Council of Geography*, with government support, employs a consid-

erable number of geographers to collect basic data and carry on field work. This Council has a rather extensive program for upgrading its staff through study abroad. Geographers operating outside the Council often are encouraged and assisted.

At São Paulo, both the staff and students at the *Escola Livre* are engaged in sociological and anthropological research. Work in these fields is also carried on at the *State Museum* and in the faculty of philosophy, which makes some research funds available to such departments as anthropology and geography, although the amounts are still wholly inadequate. Nevertheless, this marks a radical departure in the general policies of South American universities. The geography department has been especially active, and a cooperative program has been developed which will include anthropology, sociology, economics and perhaps other specialties in a well-planned, small area research program.

Psychology has had some development in São Paulo, although mainly in the personnel field in connection with the rather advanced industrial development of this city. Finally, the best Brazilian historical research appears currently to be in São Paulo. Not only are there a number of noted historians, but there are many younger scholars engaging in institutional, social, and cultural types of historical work clearly allied to social science problems.

Of special interest in São Paulo also is the newly established *Institute of Administration*, which is fairly large and pays adequate salaries for full-time research. Although designed primarily for studies in public and business administration, on which it also provides consultative services, the problems are conceived broadly and include work in history, anthropology, sociology, psychology, and economics. The initial program emphasizes short-range projects of immediate practical utility, on such problems as recruitment for the São Paulo police force, the necessity for a central purchasing office for the State Government, the selection of personnel for a newspaper. In addition, several basic research projects are under way and the Institute hopes to increase their number. Staff training is not wholly adequate, but the Institute has sufficient funds to establish a program of foreign study for its own staff members. Here, as in the best of the other research institutes, the provision of assistance and technical facilities far exceeds what is available to most university research workers in the United States.

The list of social science research organizations in Brazil is relatively large. Many of them are still in the older tradition, but about twenty are apparently attempting modern research in one or more fields. In general, the shortage of adequately trained personnel limits the



extent and quality of the research activities. The most hopeful sign is the widespread recognition of the need either to bring in foreign scholars to assist in training or to send people abroad for specialized training in research. Many of those who study abroad go to France and secondarily to England, but the majority would prefer to come to the United States. The reasons they do not do so are the lack of funds and the limited number of fellowships available for the dollar area.

The poverty and political disorder of Paraguay have almost totally inhibited any social science research. A privately endowed center for Indian studies reached the building stage but funds did not permit completion.

The situation in Argentina is much too confused to be understood in a short visit. Research output was greatly reduced by the wholesale dismissals from universities some years ago and very few of the men dismissed have been able to continue research activity. Some of the anthropological and ethnological institutes connected with various universities in Argentina have resumed their publication series but thus far most of the contents have been supplied by European scholars. There is little evidence of original field, or even library, research in Argentina itself. A new ethnic institute with funds and able direction but poorly trained staff may develop some research. A comparable decline seems to have taken place in geography, particularly in the fields of human geography. Sociology in Argentina was always somewhat European in viewpoint with little interest in empirical research. Today the orientation is increasingly Thomistic or Durkheimian, and the discipline is considered philosophical and normative. Points of view in economics seem more promising but I was unable to learn of any significant current research. Although the economic situation of university faculties in Argentina has improved, it seems doubtful that the present orientation will result in extensive development of research in social science fields. History continues its earlier nationalistic trend.

In Uruguay there is a great deal of interest in and understanding of social science research, but most financial support is necessarily directed toward applied economic and social fields in which statistical approaches have been relatively well developed. Increased support for research in sociology is probable and the need for more in psychology is recognized. Some support is being given to expansion of work in history and folklore, but anthropology is regarded as a luxury subject, in spite of a considerable interest in it.

The situation in Chile is similar to that in Uruguay, although somewhat more developed. Considerable research in economics and social problems emerges from the research seminars, as well as government bureaus and studies by individuals. In general, there is perhaps more

research in these fields in Chile than in any other South American country. A new institute of sociology within the university is intended to develop a research program and at least one man is studying abroad. As in most countries, the lack of statistical facilities for research in sociology is striking. A good deal of geographic work is going on in government agencies; some of it has important bearing on human geography. Anthropology is limited to a small amount of archaeological work by museums. The output and quality of historical work is said to be declining and there is little prospect of the emergence of new scholars in this field.

Peru presents potentialities which are as yet largely unrealized. Archaeology has not recovered from the death of Tello, but some excavation is conducted by the Museum of Archaeology in Lima and the Institute of Anthropology in Trujillo. Increased ethnological and linguistic research emanates from the Institute of Ethnology in Lima, the University of Cuzco, and the Institute of Anthropology in Trujillo. Also active in this field are a number of able refugee scholars scattered throughout the country. In general, however, they have no avenue of publication and their work remains primarily avocational. The principal development in history in Peru is in ethno-history which seems to center largely around the Historical Society in Lima, although there are individuals working elsewhere. This activity is of particular significance in Peru and the facilities for it are quite good. The major stimulus for geographic work at present appears to be in Arequipa, but despite the long tradition of geography in Peru there is relatively little production in human geography. The Geographic Society *La Libertad*, in Trujillo, is active in a variety of fields. There is a small amount of descriptive work going on in sociology, but apparently it does not reach publication. Rather extensive psychological investigations of race and class differences are being conducted by refugee scholars, whose reports may be published soon. The Institute of Andean Biology, although devoted primarily to biological problems, has shown some interest in research into cultural and social situations related to its expanding program and facilities.

At present there is practically no social science research in Bolivia, nor could I discover evidence of much interest. An Institute of Sociology has existed for some time at Sucre, but in 1948 was being moved to La Paz. In any case, it has devoted itself mainly to action problems. Developing interest in research in the natural sciences may in time extend to the social sciences.

Little research is actively under way in Ecuador. The documentary and archaeological studies of Jijón y Camaño continue and some archaeological work emanates from the University of Guayaquil. Several medical men

have carried on research on specialized phases of physical anthropology, only part of which has been published. Amateurs have done some ethnographic work, and the Institute of Social Security has sponsored some investigations into living conditions among the Indians. Some demographic and cultural-geographical analysis of the Ecuadorian population has been done by an enthusiastic individual, and the results should be valuable in planning field programs in Ecuador. Outside of government agencies there appears to be little work in economics and no empirical work in sociology. Ecuadorian resources are limited and real efforts are being made to improve social and economic conditions; unfortunately, much of this endeavor is being dissipated because of the failure to utilize the services of technicians in the social sciences.

In Colombia the most active research program is in the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology in Bogotá and its various branches throughout the country. Most of the Institute's staff are former students of Rivet, and the situation indicates the tremendous impetus which may be given to studies in a discipline by a strong personality from abroad. While a good deal of the work is in the field of archaeology, where there is great interest in obtaining additional training in the techniques developed in the United States, substantial work is also being carried on in ethnology. In particular, an intensive group study of the Guajiro is nearing publication. There is some independent research in economics, but it is relatively limited in scope. Sociological research is of little moment. Nevertheless, in 1949 there was considerable interest in the development of research in the social sciences, particularly in the universities and in the normal school, which in organization and spirit is patterned closely after the *Ecole Normal Supérieure* in Paris.

In this review by countries there is practically no mention of political science. Generally the subject is identified with constitutional and international law and only rarely is there any interest in other aspects of political science. Considering the rapidly expanding problems of industrialization and urbanization in practically every country in South America, the empirical economic and sociological research also is extraordinarily limited.

Psychology is practically omitted from this discussion. As one scholar said, most psychology in South America consists either of medical psychiatry or an educational psychology devoted to the use of tests many years out-of-date. Only in Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina did I encounter university interest in developing psychology on a broader basis.

The treatment of history is likewise very cavalier. In part this was intentional because the historians on the whole are much better organized internationally than are the other social scientists. However, the general

impression is that, with few exceptions, history is more or less static and follows traditional interests, with few replacements appearing for the older historians.

## PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE

Not properly evaluated in this summary is the amount of interest in the development of social science research and particularly in the trends within the United States. As already suggested, the social sciences in South America are at a somewhat critical point in their development. In the majority of the countries visited, groups of varying size have interests in and understanding of social science research. As yet there is a less widespread understanding of the necessity of specialized training if research is to be effective. The hope of advancement in the quality and quantity of social science research in South America depends in part on the extent to which training abroad can be provided. Another important factor is the degree to which the value of research is recognized by governments and proper support given to social scientists. At present the atmosphere in most countries is discouraging for the social scientist, especially in those countries which are developing essentially totalitarian governmental structures.

It would seem desirable for a time at least that the practical applications of social science be stressed in relation to South America in order to broaden the base of support for research. South American scholars should emphasize fact-finding techniques in areas where social science methods can be of practical value. Along with this, of course, interest should be diverted from general theoretical problems. Such an emphasis might well be given in the guidance of students who come to the United States. As a prominent Brazilian social scientist remarked, one does not need to worry about Latin Americans being insufficiently theoretical.

Much can be done by social scientists in this country to encourage social science research in Latin America. The average field worker in Latin America works under considerable handicaps and suffers from marked isolation. Reprints or personal contacts and letters are valued. More fellowships for advanced training in this country and the development of local research training courses, staffed by research-trained personnel, will increase the quality of research. Even though many trained individuals are unable to continue with research programs, they often take positions in business or government where they may do much to facilitate research in the future. This is already evident in Brazil. Broader public understanding of social science and its potentialities is a necessary precondition to large-scale development of social science research in South America.

## FACULTY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS: A NEW SSRC PROGRAM

BEGINNING with the academic year 1950-51, the Social Science Research Council will offer a five-year program of Faculty Research Fellowships. These awards have been made possible by a grant of \$465,000 to the Council by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. They are designed to enable younger members of social science faculties of universities and colleges, who have superior qualifications for research, to devote a substantial part of their time to self-directed research early in their professional careers, while remaining in residence at their own institutions and carrying on a restricted amount of teaching. The need for aid of this kind was thoroughly canvassed with many social scientists and the response was highly favorable. The plan for Faculty Research Fellowships is based on their suggestions and on the Council's studies of and continuing concern with the development of social science personnel.

The fellowships are intended to confer honor in recognition of the appointees' research accomplishments, and to represent a challenge to further achievement in research. It is expected that they will demonstrate the possibility of combining significant research and effective teaching.

Fellows will be selected on the basis of their past attainments and their promise of further performance in research on problems involving the formulation and testing of empirical—and if possible quantitative—methods of hypotheses concerning social behavior. As these processes may be carried on in practically all fields of social science, the fellowships will be open to men and women, from any social science discipline, whose previous training and present interests qualify them for the indicated type of research. Fellows must have had training represented by the Ph.D. degree in social science or its equivalent, must be regular members of teaching staffs of universities or colleges in the United States, and should not be over 35 years of age.

Appointments will normally be made for three-year terms, during which fellows will devote at least half of their working time to their own research. In addition to being freed from teaching and all other routine academic duties for at least half of their time during the regular academic year, they are to be completely released from such duties during the summers. The contemplated financial arrangements will, in the average case, offset most of the net cost to the institution represented by the proportional part of the fellow's salary; in addition, a modest allowance for research expenses will be available for use at the fellow's discretion. Active cooperation of university and college administrations and faculties will be indispensable, both in protecting fel-

lows from encroachments upon their time and in providing as good facilities as possible for their research. Hence the committee making awards<sup>1</sup> will take account not only of the qualifications of individual candidates but also of the situations in which they must carry on their work.

In planning the Faculty Research Fellowship program, the Council has acted in the belief that the early postdoctoral years of a scholar's career are a crucial period in which the habit of productive research may either become lastingly established or be lost through disuse. There is evidence that maximum productivity in original contributions to science may be attained by the time a person is in his thirties; yet under prevailing conditions social science teachers of those ages tend to be burdened with routine duties which leave little time for original work. Neither group research enterprises nor short-term fellowships under which one is taken temporarily out of his normal situation provide the opportunity for sustained pursuit of one's own investigations which the present program is designed to afford. Holders of Faculty Research Fellowships will by no means be debarred from consultation and collaboration with their colleagues, but it is intended that they shall not be under any commitment to perform services for or under the direction of anyone else during the time released to them by their appointments. They should be free from the pressure of frequent deadlines which often produces superficiality in research done under contract.

Because the number of appointments is limited and a wide distribution of appointments, both geographically and among institutions of different types and sizes, is to be desired, not more than one appointment is to be made at a given institution in any year. Nominations will be welcomed not only from universities but also from liberal arts colleges of high standards.

Preliminary nominations of members of their staffs may be made by heads of social science departments or larger administrative units in universities and colleges. Inasmuch as the fellow's university or college must become an active party to the arrangements, applications from individuals should be accompanied by appropriate endorsement in every case. From among such candidates, the Committee on Faculty Research Fellowships will from time to time select persons who will be invited to submit formal applications. If two or more nominees of apparently equal qualifications are submitted from the same institution, the committee may ask the head of the institution to decide which one shall enter the final

<sup>1</sup> See page 11 *infra* for members of the newly appointed Committee on Faculty Research Fellowships.



competition. Before appointments are made, further negotiations concerning proposed terms of fellowship will be held between the Council and the institution concerned in each case.

Inquiries and requests for forms for preliminary nomination may be addressed to Elbridge Sibley, Executive Associate, Social Science Research Council, 726 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

## INTERUNIVERSITY SUMMER RESEARCH SEMINARS FOR SOCIAL SCIENTISTS

THE recapture of the summer recess for purposes of hard study and research rather than routine teaching would redound to the benefit of professional development and higher education. Under present conditions the academic year for the majority of younger faculty members includes summer school teaching in addition to the regular semesters' work. The difficulty of adjusting salary scales to the increased cost of living makes this necessary. The cost from the standpoint of the advance of knowledge and educational efficiency is high, since traditionally the summer recess offered opportunity for intellectual refreshment and research on the part of the more able and serious scholars. Summer teaching provides younger faculty members with an essential margin of income but does little for their own development or that of their fields of knowledge. The summer recess supplies a break in the academic year that can be used to better purpose. The obstacles are largely financial.

To improve this situation in some measure and to emphasize the value of the summer recess for research advancement, the Social Science Research Council has been granted \$100,000 by the John and Mary R. Markle Foundation to finance the holding of interuniversity summer seminars over a three-year period, beginning in 1950. This first summer will be frankly experimental. It is hoped that additional plans will be initiated in different universities and a variety of topics for research offered for consideration.

A seminar on Old Age Research will be held this coming summer at the University of California at Berkeley, under the chairmanship of Harold E. Jones. Participants are drawn from several universities, mainly on the West Coast, and include research men trained in medical and legal fields as well as several social science disciplines. A small working group will meet for eight weeks beginning July 3 and will conduct a one-week conference with a larger group in August. In addition to the chairman, members of the working group will include M. Bruce Fisher, Department of Psychology, Fresno State College; Oscar J. Kaplan, Department of Psychology, San Diego State College; Frank Newman, University of California Law School. Part-time participants and consultants from

the University of California faculty will include James Hamilton, M.D., School of Medicine; Clark Kerr, alternating with Lloyd Fisher, both of the Institute of Industrial Relations; Milton Chernin, Dean of the School of Social Welfare; Leon Lewis, M.D., School of Public Health; and Nello Pace, Department of Physiology. During August Raymond G. Kuhlen of the Department of Educational Psychology at Syracuse University will be in attendance.

During the first five weeks the seminar plans to discuss significant problems in the field of old age research, to bring up to date a critical account of research on psychological aspects of old age, to prepare a methodological report, and to consider plans developed by Clark Kerr and Lloyd Fisher for the study of problems relating to the aging worker at the University of California Institute of Industrial Relations. These materials will then be reviewed in a week's conference with Robert J. Havighurst and Ernest A. Haggard of the Committee on Human Development, University of Chicago; Robert W. Kleemeier, Director of the Moosehaven Laboratory for Research on the Processes of Aging, Orange Park, Florida; Elon H. Moore, Department of Sociology, University of Oregon; Ray E. Baber, Department of Sociology, Pomona College; and several representatives of state and federal agencies concerned with work in this field.

At the University of Chicago, Theodore W. Schultz will bring together a group of agricultural economists for intensive work, beginning June 27, on appraisal of concepts and techniques useful in analyzing major economic problems in agriculture. The members of this Seminar on Economic Efficiency in Agriculture will include Earl O. Heady of Iowa State College, David L. MacFarlane of McGill University, and Lawrence Witt of Michigan State College, John A. Baker of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, R. G. Bressler of the University of California, and William E. Hendrix of the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station, in addition to Mr. Schultz as chairman and Oswald H. Brownlee, Clifford Hildreth, and D. Gale Johnson of the Department of Economics at Chicago. The seminar program will have three phases. It will deal (1) with the concept of

economic efficiency, (2) with research problems and methods for measuring economic efficiency, and (3) with applications of estimates of efficiency in agricultural economic problems. The subjects to be analyzed in each phase have been outlined and advance preparation on specific areas will be undertaken by each participant.

At Dartmouth College, seven psychologists will meet together during July and August 1950 to appraise the status and current problems of learning theory. This conference is separately financed under a grant to the Council from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The members have been meeting informally since June 1948 and their plans had been aided by the Council before the grant from the Markle Foundation was made. The members are: Conrad G. Mueller and William N. Schoenfeld, Columbia University; Sigmund Koch, Duke University; William K. Estes and William P. Verplanck, Indiana University; and Kenneth MacCorquodale (chairman) and Paul E. Meehl, University of Minnesota. The spontaneous collaboration of this group in developing plans for a two-month working conference to resolve theoretical research problems of mutual interest was a striking illustration of the possibilities in the summer seminar idea.

In organizing these seminars, the problem is not essentially that of selecting a worth-while topic for research planning and appraisal, although this is obviously important, but of identifying groups of individuals whose

own intellectual development and research interests will enable them to make optimum use of two months of intensive work under the stimulus and discipline that comes from group analysis of a problem of common scientific concern. It is of great importance to discover what competent research men want to undertake together. The specialist should have the privilege of deciding upon the lines of inquiry that promise to be most productive. Hence, it is the ability of the individual participants and the common focus of the research team that are of primary concern.

The interuniversity summer seminars are designed to aid outstanding research workers within the 30- to 40-year age group. The seminars should bring together scholars at the growing edge of knowledge on whatever subject is selected. They provide one means whereby such a group can advance their own competence and enrich the fields in which they are working. Such a group does not need further formal academic training since they are seeking to develop new methods and appraising or synthesizing data rather than simply studying what is already known. Together they can advance beyond that stage. They can survey growing fields of knowledge, clarify theories, test hypotheses, and map new directions for investigation. Working together on a specific task directed toward such ends should be intellectually stimulating and productive of useful results.

## COMMITTEE BRIEFS

### ECONOMIC GROWTH

Simon Kuznets (chairman), John M. Clark, Edgar M. Hoover, Wilbert E. Moore, Lauriston Sharp, Joseph J. Spengler.

At a meeting on February 25 the committee discussed several research planning projects in which it is actively interested. One is concerned with recent research on internal migration and involves a review of the relevant literature which has appeared since the publication in 1938 of Council Bulletin 43, *Research Memorandum on Migration Differentials* by Dorothy S. Thomas. The current review is being organized by Everett Lee under her guidance at the University of Pennsylvania. The committee is exploring the feasibility of a complementary appraisal of the research materials bearing upon regional shifts in the labor force, capital, and other factors affecting economic growth. A memorandum on the role of the state in economic development is being drafted for the committee by Mr. Spengler. The committee also gave extended consideration to ways of planning and initiating pilot studies of (a) the import structure and capital imports in some single underdeveloped

country, or (b) a cross-section analysis of import structure and capital imports for several selected underdeveloped countries. For a report on the committee's joint meeting with the Committee on Social Implications of Atomic Energy and Technological Change on February 24, see the note on that committee on page 10.

### INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AMONG SOCIAL SCIENTISTS

Roy F. Nichols (chairman), Frederick S. Dunn, Robert B. Hall, Otto Klineberg, Donald Young; staff, Richard H. Heindel.

The first meeting of the committee on November 20 was devoted to exploration of the areas in which it can advance the interests of the Council. Individual members and the staff have given continuing attention to aspects of the social science program of UNESCO, the need for and devices of international cooperation among social scientists, problems of international organization in the social sciences, and the aspects of Public Law 265 which relate to the Finnish educational exchange program.



## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS RESEARCH

Frederick S. Dunn (chairman), James W. Angell, Dorwin Cartwright, Edward M. Earle, William T. R. Fox, Grayson Kirk, Clyde Kluckhohn, Leo Pasvolksy.

During the past year the committee held two meetings and commissioned its chairman and rapporteur to prepare papers on trends in international relations research in America during recent decades and during the coming decade. The two papers which resulted—"Interwar International Relations Research: The American Experience" by Mr. Fox, and "The Present Course of International Relations Research" by Mr. Dunn—were discussed at one-day conferences held with interested social scientists in New York City, Washington, and Palo Alto during the late spring and summer. The papers were then revised on the basis of these discussions and published in the October 1949 issue of *World Politics*.

W. T. R. F.

## LABOR MARKET RESEARCH

Dale Yoder (chairman), E. Wight Bakke, J. Douglas Brown, Philip M. Hauser, Clark Kerr, Charles A. Myers, Gladys L. Palmer, Carroll L. Shartle; staff, Paul Webbink.

On February 14-15 the committee conferred with the faculty of the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University concerning the School's current research activities and problems of research programming in the labor field. The Industrial Relations Research Association has agreed to assume the responsibilities formerly carried by the committee for the planning and management of the annual conferences on research and training held at the University of Minnesota in the spring of each of the past five years. The first conference under the Association's auspices will be held at Chicago on May 12-13. The committee is arranging a small conference of research technicians to be held just prior to the Chicago conference to examine intensively experience with studies of labor productivity in individual industrial plants. A new *Memorandum on University Research Programs in the Field of Labor* will be issued this spring.

## SLAVIC STUDIES

(Joint with the American Council of Learned Societies)

Philip E. Mosely (chairman), Ernest J. Simmons (secretary), Percy E. Corbett, Merle Fainsod, Robert J. Kerner, Geroid T. Robinson, S. Harrison Thomson, René Wellek.

During almost two years of activity the committee has devoted a major part of its effort to improving the procurement and distribution of research materials relating to the Soviet Union and, in much smaller part, to other countries of Eastern Europe. One of its major enterprises has been the establishment of the *Current Digest of the Soviet Press* (413 West 117 Street, New York 27, N. Y.).

Since making its first appearance on February 1, 1949 the *Digest* has become an essential tool of research scholars and commentators interested in following closely new Soviet

materials and views. Drawing on some 40 Soviet newspapers and periodicals, the *Digest* presents full or condensed translations totaling some 70,000 words a week, including a listing of the entire contents of *Pravda* and *Izvestiia*, the leading Soviet organs. Its quarterly indexes list translations of Soviet material in other publications as well as its own. While support through subscriptions has been considerably higher than originally forecast, the operation of the *Digest* would not have been possible without subsidy. During its first sixteen months, including a "tooling-up" period of four months and the first year of full operation, a subsidy of \$30,000 was provided by the American Council of Learned Societies, from a grant by the Rockefeller Foundation. The Foundation has now made a further appropriation of funds to support the work of the *Digest* until February 29, 1952, and the committee hopes, through expansion of the subscription list and through active search for all possible economies of operation, to place the *Digest* on a continuing basis of self-support within a reasonable period of time.

One further difficulty in securing adequate access to Soviet materials has been the insufficient flow of new Soviet books and monographs. Neither the American outlets for sale of Soviet publications nor the Soviet book monopoly appear to show much commercial interest in promoting sales abroad, and because of large demand within Russia for new books it is also almost impossible to procure individual items on an order basis. This situation has made it important to facilitate to a maximum early knowledge of the new books available in this country.

An important step in this direction was taken by establishing, in 1948, a *Monthly List of Russian Accessions* received by the Library of Congress. Since the Library receives, generally speaking, a wider range of new accessions than other institutions, the publishing of this *List* provides rather promptly a kind of check-list for use by other libraries and scholars, and facilitates access to new materials either through interlibrary loan or through microfilms. The establishment of the *List* was made possible for the first year through a grant made by the American Council of Learned Societies, upon the recommendation of the joint committee, and its publication is now continuing as a regular activity of the Library of Congress. It is reported that requests for interlibrary borrowing of Russian materials from the Library have increased almost tenfold since the *Monthly List* began to appear.

The Library of Congress has made another valuable contribution to Russian studies through its decision to distribute to other research libraries the surplus Russian items from among its holdings. Totaling some 16,000, these materials provide important additions to the holdings of other institutions. After examining the problem with the Librarian of Congress and his principal assistants, the officers of the committee recommended to the Library an equitable plan for the distribution of the surplus items to other libraries, in a manner best suited to strengthen research facilities. Since the Library's budget, already pared to the bone, did not allow of any immediate provision for additional personnel required for identifying and classifying the surplus

items, the committee recommended to the American Council of Learned Societies the provision of a grant of \$7,000 to meet this need. The Council gave prompt approval to this request, and the task of sorting and listing the distributable items was begun at once by the Library. Over 7,000 items have already been distributed, under exchange arrangements, to the research libraries principally concerned with Russian studies. The program is being pushed steadily toward completion, and the Library of Congress proposes to make the distribution of surplus Russian items a continuing part of its service to scholarship throughout the country, in addition to its lending and microfilming services, which are also in heavy use.

P. E. M.

#### SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

Ansley J. Coale (chairman), Harold J. Barnett, J. Frederic Dewhurst, Tjalling C. Koopmans, Wassily W. Leontief, W. Rupert Maclaurin.

At a joint meeting with the Committee on Economic Growth on February 24, plans for a conference to be held early in 1951 on the description and measurement of technological change were reviewed. A sequence of topics was agreed upon, and persons tentatively selected to prepare papers on each of these for circulation well in advance of the conference. Three broad areas will be considered: the description and measurement of changes in technical processes of production and consumption, the description of changes in technical knowledge, and examination of the sequence from the acquisition of technical knowledge to the adoption and spread of new production processes. It was agreed that final arrangements should be made by a planning group consisting of Ansley J. Coale, Simon Kuznets, and Paul Webbink. The research planning report on the economics of technological change prepared for the committee by Yale Brozen was also reviewed at the February meeting. It was agreed that after revisions by the author mimeographed copies of his manuscript will be made available by the Council.

#### SOUTHERN ASIA

*(Joint with the American Council of Learned Societies)*

W. Norman Brown (chairman), Kingsley Davis, Franklin Edgerton, John F. Embree, Holden Furber, David G. Mandelbaum, Horace I. Poleman, Lauriston Sharp; secretary, Alice Thorner.

Sixty-six persons participated in the conference on Southern Asia studies sponsored by the committee at the University of Pennsylvania, December 2-4, 1949. The conference dealt with the assessment and needs of Southern Asia studies in the United States, proposals for their advancement, appraisals of some current research on Southern Asia, and cultural relations with that area. While the conference emphasized serious gaps and problems in research and teaching, numerous constructive suggestions were discussed. Among the suggestions were proposals for two further con-

ferences—one on training for undergraduate instructors and one to bring together museum personnel concerned with Southern Asia materials.

The advantages of an American Institute of South Asian Studies, possibly in India, received considerable attention in the conference. Bibliographical matters discussed included cooperative acquisition projects as well as the need for preparation of brief bibliographies for general educational purposes. Instructional problems covered both college administration and teaching materials. Field studies were deemed of great importance, and proposed studies of Bangalore and Bangkok were described. In discussion of publication and translation problems it was noted that more scholarly material from the United States might be submitted to journals in Southern Asia. Among the governmental research and personnel needs examined were the bearing of the Point IV program upon this area and the use of academic personnel for short-term appointments as cultural attachés. The opportunities and values of the exchange of scholars and students elicited many comments, as did the subject of encouragement of indigenous scholarship, e.g., the use of local personnel as assistants in field studies. There seemed to be a consensus that the prospects for Southern Asia studies in the United States are very favorable; nevertheless, considerable counsel was offered for improving public information and understanding, partly as a basis for support of the required scholarship and training programs.

The proceedings and the data papers prepared for the conference are of great value to the committee, which met on February 25 to discuss plans for its survey of Southern Asia studies.

#### WORLD AREA RESEARCH

Robert B. Hall (chairman), Ralph L. Beals, Wendell C. Bennett, W. Norman Brown, Donald C. McKay, Geroid T. Robinson, George E. Taylor; staff, Richard H. Heindel.

Plans have been completed for the second national conference on the study of world areas to be held in New York, May 5-7, under the chairmanship of George E. Taylor. The purpose of the conference is to obtain an evaluation of area research and area programs as they exist today. The agenda includes discussion of the methods and achievements of area research, the role of area studies in the universities, the future of area studies, and their relation to world affairs. Russia and the Far East have been selected as the two areas on which there will be organized and critical examination of work accomplished or in progress, specifically, on projects at Columbia, Harvard, and the University of Washington. The chairman of the sessions on Russia will be Harold H. Fisher; the rapporteur, Philip E. Mosely; and the discussion leaders, Geroid T. Robinson and Clyde Kluckhohn. William Holland will be chairman of the sessions on the Far East and Franz Michael, rapporteur.

Much of the work of the conference, particularly on methods and achievements and on the future of area studies, will be done in round tables on South Asia, the Near East

and Africa, Latin America, and Europe, as well as on Russia and the Far East. The chairman and rapporteur of the round table on South Asia will be W. Norman Brown and David G. Mandelbaum, respectively; on the Near East and Africa, Edwin M. Wright and George Cameron; on Latin America, John Gillin and Ralph L. Beals; on Europe, Charles F. Voegelin and Harold C. Deutsch.

The role of the universities will be considered at a general session of the conference under the chairmanship of Donald C. McKay. John K. Fairbank will speak on students and training, Mortimer Graves on the college as the frontier in area studies, and Frank S. Hopkins on educational prepa-

ration for government training. The relationship of area studies to world affairs will be the subject of a dinner meeting, of which John W. Gardner will be chairman and the speakers, George Kennan and K. A. Wittfogel.

A selective set of data papers will be circulated to the participants prior to the conference. The work of the rapporteurs will provide the basis for a conference report which will be supplemented by the data papers and information assembled in field inquiries by the staff.

At a meeting of the committee on January 7, Mr. McKay was named acting chairman during Mr. Hall's absence from the country until August.

## PERSONNEL

### DIRECTORS OF THE COUNCIL

The seven national social science organizations associated with the Council have designated the following persons to serve as directors of the Council for the three-year term 1950-52:

Ralph L. Beals, University of California at Los Angeles, by the American Anthropological Association  
Harold A. Innis, University of Toronto, by the American Economic Association  
Elmer Ellis, University of Missouri, by the American Historical Association  
Don K. Price, Public Administration Clearing House, by the American Political Science Association  
Otto Klineberg, Columbia University, by the American Psychological Association  
Dorothy S. Thomas, University of Pennsylvania, by the American Sociological Society  
Holbrook Working, Stanford University, by the American Statistical Association.

Their credentials are scheduled for acceptance by the board of directors of the Council at its spring meeting in New York, April 1-2, 1950.

### APPOINTMENTS TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES

The following Committee on Faculty Research Fellowships has been designated to administer the new program described on pp. 6-7: Blair Stewart of Oberlin College (chairman), Paul H. Buck of Harvard University, Fred Eggan of the University of Chicago, Paul W. Gates of Cornell University, Harold E. Jones of the University of California, Donald G. Marquis of the University of Michigan, Dorothy S. Thomas of the University of Pennsylvania, Schuyler C. Wallace of Columbia University, and Malcolm M. Willey of the University of Minnesota.

A new interdisciplinary Committee on Political Behavior, consisting initially of V. O. Key of Yale University (chairman), Angus Campbell of the University of Michigan, Alfred de Grazia of the University of Minnesota, Oliver Garceau of Bennington College, Avery Leiserson of the University of Chicago, M. Brewster Smith of Vassar College, and David B. Truman of Williams College, was appointed in December to explore means of advancing research in this field.

Roy F. Nichols of the University of Pennsylvania and Lauriston Sharp of Cornell University have been appointed interim members of the Committee on Area Research Training Fellowships, several members of which will be out of the country for various periods during 1950.

Charles F. Voegelin of Indiana University has succeeded Horace M. Miner as a member of the Committee on International Exchange of Persons (joint with the ACE, ACLS, and NRC).

Dorwin Cartwright of the University of Michigan has accepted membership on the Committee on International Relations Research.

### AREA RESEARCH TRAINING FELLOWSHIPS AND TRAVEL GRANTS

At a meeting on November 19, 1949 the Committee on Area Research Training Fellowships appointed the following fellows:

George I. Blanksten, Ph.D. in political science, University of California at Los Angeles, for research in Argentina on Argentine politics and government since 1943.

Frank A. Ecker, Ph.D. candidate in political science, University of Michigan, for study and research in the United States on Soviet planning in Uzbekistan.

Rufus S. Hendon, Ph.D. candidate in anthropology, Yale University, for ethnographic study in Malaya of the Malays of Negri Sembilan.

Harold C. Hinton, Ph.D. candidate in history, Harvard University, for completion of a dissertation in modern Chinese social and economic history and special study of Chinese history since 1800.

Simon Rottenberg, Ph.D. candidate in economics, Harvard University, for research in Puerto Rico and other islands on the efficiency of labor in the Caribbean.

Albert Rouslin, Ph.D. candidate in anthropology, Columbia University, for research in Mexico on acculturation in the Tarascan area during the 16th century.

Stanley Spector, Ph.D. candidate in Chinese history, University of Washington, for economic training and research on modern Chinese capitalism and industrialism.



Gordon Wright, Ph.D., Stanford University, Professor of History, University of Oregon, for research in France on the contemporary political and social role of the peasantry.

Travel grants were awarded to the following:

George B. Cressey, Chairman, Department of Geography, Syracuse University, for geographical research in China.

John F. Embree, Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of Graduate Studies in the Southeast Asia Field, Yale University, for comparative community study in Indo-China.

Robert B. Hall, Professor of Geography and Director of the Center for Japanese Studies, University of Michigan, for research in Japan on cultural regionalism.

Noland R. Heiden, Ph.D. in geography, University of Michigan, Fulbright Scholar, for exploratory study of cities of Norway with reference to their internal structure and the interrelations of different urban centers.

Wolf Leslau, Associate Professor, Asia Institute, for linguistic research in Ethiopia.

David Rodnick, Ph.D. in anthropology, University of Pennsylvania, Fulbright Scholar, for anthropological field study in Norway.

## PUBLICATIONS

### SSRC BULLETINS AND MONOGRAPHS

*Tensions Affecting International Understanding: A Survey of Research*, Bulletin 62, by Otto Klineberg. April 1950. About 230 pp. \$1.75.

*Production of New Housing: A Research Monograph on Efficiency in Production*, by Leo Grebler. February 1950. 195 pp. \$1.75.

*Labor-Management Relations: A Research Planning Memorandum*, Bulletin 61, by John G. Turnbull. October 1949. 121 pp. \$1.25.

*The Pre-election Polls of 1948: Report to the Committee on Analysis of Pre-election Polls and Forecasts*, Bulletin 60, by Frederick Mosteller, Herbert Hyman, Philip J. McCarthy, Eli S. Marks, David B. Truman, with the collaboration of L. W. Doob, Duncan MacRae, Jr., F. F. Stephan, S. A. Stouffer, S. S. Wilks. September 1949. 416 pp. Paper, \$2.50; cloth, \$3.00.

The Council's bulletins, monographs, and pamphlets are distributed from the New York office of the Council.

### BOOKS

*The Corporation in New Jersey: Business and Politics, 1791-1875* by John W. Cadman, Jr. Published in cooperation with the Committee on Economic History. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1949. 479 pp. \$6.00.

*Steamboats on the Western Rivers: An Economic and Technological History* by Louis C. Hunter. Published in cooperation with the Committee on Economic History,

the American Historical Association, and the American Council of Learned Societies. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1949. 699 pp. \$10.00.

*Studies in Social Psychology in World War II*, Vol. I, *The American Soldier: Adjustment During Army Life* by S. A. Stouffer, E. A. Suchman, L. C. DeVinney, S. A. Star, and R. M. Williams, Jr.; Vol. II, *The American Soldier: Combat and Its Aftermath* by S. A. Stouffer, A. A. Lumsdaine, M. H. Lumsdaine, R. M. Williams, Jr., M. B. Smith, I. L. Janis, S. A. Star, and L. S. Cottrell, Jr.; Vol. III, *Experiments on Mass Communication* by C. I. Hovland, A. A. Lumsdaine, and F. D. Sheffield; Vol. IV, *Measurement and Prediction* by S. A. Stouffer, Louis Guttman, E. A. Suchman, P. F. Lazarsfeld, S. A. Star, and J. A. Clausen. Prepared under the auspices of the Committee on Analysis of Experience of Research Branch, Information and Education Division, ASF. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1949. Vol. I, 612 pp.; Vol. II, 676 pp.; together, \$13.50; separately, \$7.50. Vol. III, 356 pp., \$5.00. Vol. IV, about 750 pp. May 1950. \$10.00.

*The Library's Public* by Bernard Berelson (194 pp., \$3.00); *The Public Library in the Political Process* by Oliver Garceau (281 pp., \$3.75); *Government Publications for the Citizen* by James L. McCamy (153 pp., \$2.50); *The Book Industry* by William Miller (170 pp., \$2.75); *The Information Film* by Gloria Waldron (299 pp., \$3.75). Prepared under the auspices of the Public Library Inquiry Committee, the last-named volume in cooperation with the Twentieth Century Fund. New York: Columbia University Press, 1949.

## SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL

230 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

*Incorporated in the State of Illinois, December 27, 1924, for the purpose of advancing research in the social sciences*

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